

**GOVERNOR'S REQUEST
EMERGENCY**

March 30, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Paul Ford, Acting Regional Administrator
FEMA Region I
99 High Street
Boston, MA, 02110

Dear President Obama:

Under the provisions of Section 501 (a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for the State of Rhode Island as a result of *severe storms, flooding, beginning Tuesday, March 12th 2010 and continuing, statewide,*

In response to the situation I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on *March 12th 2010* in accordance with Section 501 (a) of the Stafford Act. *I declared a State of Emergency, Statewide, on March 15, 2010 which continues to remain in effect.*

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.35, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments, and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster. I am specifically requesting *Emergency Assistance for all counties in the State for Category "B", Emergency Protective Measures and Direct Federal Assistance.*

As we are now in the midst of the State of Emergency and unable to determine the extent and scope of damages, we will prepare our estimated requirements for individual and public assistance as soon as is reasonably practicable. Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of emergency assistance needed under the Stafford Act, and emergency assistance from certain Federal agencies under other statutory authorities are currently unavailable due to the ongoing nature of the incident. There is a potential for assistance with evacuation of nursing home residents, air lift capability to reach isolated populations, provision of potable water to communities whose municipal water systems have been contaminated, pumps and other dewatering systems, pumps for sewer treatment facilities, assistance with hazardous materials spills, etc.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this emergency:

The State Emergency Operations Center has been activated since the beginning of the incident period on March 12th, 2010.

- Upon activation of the State's Emergency Operation Plan, the Governor instructed the Executive Director of Emergency Management to staff the State Emergency Operations Center as necessary on March 15th, 2010. The Executive Director activated Emergency Support Functions 1 (Transportation), 2 (Communications), 3 (Public Works & Engineering), 5 (Information and Planning), 6 (Mass Care), 7 (Resource Support), 8 (Health), 10 (Hazardous Materials), and 13 (Law Enforcement and Security) as necessary to respond to the event.
- The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) deployed a forward Incident Command Post in the affected community of West Warwick to further coordinate the response on-site due to reports that a high hazard dam was in imminent danger of failing. The State Office of Dam Safety of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) was deployed to the forward area along with requested engineers from the Army Corp of Engineers New England District.
- The Rhode Island National Guard pre-staged assets for possible deployment throughout the response.
- Local jurisdictions public safety authorities throughout Rhode Island are responding to numerous calls for pump outs of flooded homes and businesses. Additionally the local cities and towns provided safety and security measures to affected areas.
- Teams of Crisis Counselors available for deployment throughout the State. The United Way 211 system will direct appropriate cases to these teams.

The following information is furnished on efforts and resources of other Federal agencies, which have been or will be used in responding to this incident:

- a) National Weather Service is monitoring weather and gauged river stations throughout the state
- b) Requested assistance from the United States Coast Guard to augment the State Emergency Operations Center
- c) Coordinating with the Army Corp of Engineers to assist with dam inspections and flood fighting measures
- d) Established a Unified Coordination Group with FEMA IMAT
- e) Americorps is assisting with Mass Care issues
- f) VOAD is coordinating sheltering issues
- g) American Red Cross is supporting sheltering
- h) Southern Baptists have established an EOC in MA that is also supporting RI

i) United Way 211 is performing damage reporting intake for RIEMA

I certify that for this emergency, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.¹

I request direct Federal assistance in anticipation of work and services to save lives and protect property.

- (a) **Flooding of historic proportions is expected on both the Pawtuxet and Blackstone Rivers and on numerous smaller streams statewide. This extreme and unprecedented level of flooding is expected to overwhelm State and local response capacity and will imperil critical public infrastructure as well as public and private property.**
- (b) **The State is requesting support including but not limited to; sheltering support, evacuation support, dewatering operations and emergency medical support. The Rhode Island National Guard has been activated to provide law enforcement and engineering support**
- (c) **Flood waters overtopped the berm surrounding the Warwick Sewer Authority (Wastewater Treatment facility) and have completely inundated the facility. The loss of this facility results in all raw sewage from the city of Warwick being flushed directly into the bay. The loss of this facility will also likely result in the contamination of homes, and businesses (including restaurants, grocery stores, nursing homes and other facilities) from sewer back up posing a serious public health risk which would require assistance from Federal resources to alleviate.**

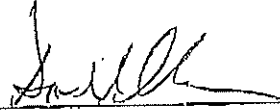
In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the State of Rhode Island agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easement, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work.
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work;
3. Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and
4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

I have designated J. David Smith, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

¹ The certification to cost share must be included; otherwise the processing of the request may be delayed until the Governor has provided the certification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Carcieri', written over a horizontal line.

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor